Arrest of custom officials in Delhi

978. SHRI AMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be please to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that CBI recently arrested a few Custom Officials in Delhi; and

(b) if so, the details of the charges against each?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR); (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) One Inspector of Central Excise was arrested by CBI on 16.3.2000 while demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs. 2000/-. He was granted bail on 23.3.2000. He has been placed under suspension.

Additional loan to Essar Oil Ltd. by FIs

979. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that financial institutions led by ICICI has recently sanctioned an additional loan of Rs. 350 crore to Essar Oil Ltd.;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that NPA of the Essar Group was not taken into account while sanctioning fresh loans to the company; and

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) (a) ICICI has reported that additional loans are being provided by the financial institutions to partially finance the overrun in the refinery project of Essar Oil Limited for setting up its refinery at Vadinar, Gujarat;

(b) and (c) In accordance with the practices and Usages customary amongst banks and financial institutions and in conformity with the provisions of statutes governing the financial

institutions and the provisions of Public Financial Institutions (Obligation as to fidelity and Secrecy) Act, 1983, the information relating to individual company/unit cannot be divulged.

(d) The decision regarding financing of a particular economic activity or granting loans to individual entities is taken by financial institutions themselves based on their commercial judgement and the loan policy laid down by their respective boards within the framework of prudential regulations and exposure norms prescribed by RBI from time to time.

Income tax assessees

980. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the number of income-tax assessees employed people, businessmen, professionals and other and the total amount collected separately; State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) The number of income tax assessees as on 31.3.2000 and the total amount of income tax and corporation tax collected from them during financial year 1999-2000. Chief Commissioner's region-wise are enclosed in the Statement *(See* below) No separate figures of collection from assessees on the basis of their occupation like employment, business, profession etc. is compiled.